UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECA/PSD.5/30
21 December 1987

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Fifth Session of the Joint Conference
of African Planners, Statisticians
and Demographers

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21-28 March 1987

REPORT ON POPULATION ACTIVITIES IN 1986-1987 AND EXAMINATION OF THE APPROVED PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1988-1989 AND CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME (1990-1991)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the period under review, the Secretariat implemented the approved 1986-1987 Work Programme and submitted to the legislative organs a proposed programme for 1988-1989, in the framework of the 1984-1989 medium-term plan. It is to be recalled that the 1988-1989 programme was submitted in draft form to the Fourth Session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers for examination and forwarded to the ECA Conference of Ministers which, in turn, proposed it for adoption to the 42nd Session of the General Assembly, through ECOSOC.

2. Following the same procedure, the draft Work Programme 1990-1991 is being submitted to this Conference for examination. It is worth mentioning that the Secretary-General has instructed the Secretariat to design the 1990-1991 programme based on the 1984-1989 medium-term plan. This was made necessary because of the prevailing financial crisis and the uncertainty regarding the future.

3. This report outlines the implementation of activities of the Secretariat in the field of population during the 1986-1987 biennium and presents the approved Work Programme for the 1988-1989 and the 1990-1991 Draft Work Programme for review, in the framework of the overall orientation given to it by the legislative organs, with reference to the important recommendations of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action (KPA) and other instruments.

4. The 1986-1987 has been characterized for the African region by the involvement of most governments in the promotion of rehabilitation, recovery and/or adjustment programmes of their economies. These actions being, by nature, short- and medium-term, quite often did not include any reference to population or, otherwise, did not handle the issue as being of primary concern.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1986-1987 WORK PROGRAMME

5. The activities of the Secretariat focussed on research and studies, seminars, dissemination of the information, advisory services and training. With the prevailing overall situation of the UN Secretariat, two professional posts, which were expected to be reinstated after their freeze in 1980 by UNFPA, were not made available. Therefore, some activities had to be dropped. Furthermore, some activities, traditionally funded from extra-budgetary resources, could not be implemented, because of non-availability of these resources.

6. During the biennium 1986-1987, the population programme comprised three sub-programmes: (a) population policies and development planning; (b) demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development; and (c) support to regional training and research. The three broad objectives of the programmes were to continue efforts at enhancing awareness of the relationships between population and development, provision of assistance to member States in the formulation, implementation of population policies and analysis of demographic and related socio-economic data, and to provide backstopping assistance to United Nations training institutions along with similar institutes in member States.

7. The activities accomplished by the Secretariat during the 1986-1987 biennium are described below, by sub-programme:

(a) Population policies and development planning

8. The four programme elements under this sub-programme were: (a) technical assistance to countries and territories; (b) assessment of population policies in socio-economic development; (c) evaluation of the demographic impact of population programmes in African countries; and (d) integration of population variables and policies in development plans.

9. With regard to advisory services to member States in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies in the integration of population variables in development planning and in the evaluation of family planning programmes, the Secretariat provided assistance to the following member States: Congo, Comoros, Kenya and Zaire in the field of policy, including the establishment of national commissions.

10. The Secretariat prepared a paper on: African experience in the implementation of population policies and programmes, which reviewed the experiences of ECA member States in the formulation and implementation of population policies during the period before and after the adoption of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population in 1984. In particular, it focussed on policies regarding population growth, distribution and structure.

11. Among other things, the paper reviewed: (i) some of the population policies in the ECA member States since gaining political independence in the 1960s with a focus on the reasons for the failure of these country policies; (ii) the perceptions of the population policies expressed by these states as at the time of the UN fifth population inquiry among nations (1982); and (iii) the same perceptions, but for the most recent period, 1987. The paper noted that although progress is being made by these states, this was more so in the area of formulating than in actual implementation of these policies. To ensure effective implementation of the policies, the paper then suggests guidelines for the ECA member States.

12. The Secretariat carried out a review study on «Methodological problems in evaluation of maternal and child health family planning (MCH/FP) programmes in Africa». The methods that were reviewed had been designed mainly to measure the impact of family planning programmes in reducing fertility. The methods included: the standardization approach, fertility projection/trend analysis, standard couple-years of protection, component projection approach, reproductive process analysis, regression analysis, prevalence method and experimental design approach. It was observed that most of the methods have not been used in African countries for some reasons like the complexity of the methods, the difficulty to gather data, the fact that methods are new and not well known, etc. The study made recommendations on: the need for evaluation to be integral part of MCH/FP programmes; the determination of specific targets for evaluation; the improvement of institutional capability; and the need to improve on methodology.

13. The Secretariat prepared a «Report on integrated maternal and child health/family planning programmes in Africa» which was intended to be presented at an expert group meeting on MCH/FP programmes in Africa in 1987. The meeting could not be convened as the anticipated extra-budgetary resources were not available. The study was based on information received from 30 member States, which responded to the questionnaire administered by the Secretariat. The report covers: the evolution, organization, financing, integration and evaluation of MCH/FP programmes. It shows that since 1974, a change in African Governments' position has taken place and that most of them have now come to accept MCH/FP programmes as part of their health programmes.

14. A task force meeting of country experts and international agencies on Guidelines for Integrating Population Variables in African Development Planning was held at ECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, from 3 to 7 November 1986. At the meeting, the draft Guidelines was discussed. A revised version was subsequently prepared and is presented to this session of the Joint Conference for review.

(b) Demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development

15. The Secretariat provided advisory services to the following member States, in evaluating and analysis of data from population censuses, surveys and vital registration systems: to Botswana (1981 census analysis reports); Burkina Faso (1985 census tabulation and analysis plans); Burundi (civil registration); Central African Republic (1986 census tabulation and analysis); Comoros (1990 census preparation); Côte d'Ivoire (1987 census preparatory activities including tabulation and analysis plans); Djibouti (1983 census analysis); Equatorial Guinea (1983 census evaluation and analysis); Lesotho (1986 census tabulation plans); Liberia (1984 census analysis and publication plans); Libya (1973 census monographs); Mauritius (1983 census analysis); Sierra Leone (1985 census questionnaire and analysis); Sudan (1983 census analysis); Tanzania (1986 census tabulation and questionnaire); and Zaire (1984 census processing). Also, as part of training nationals in demographic data analysis, assistance was rendered to Congo and to trainees from Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad and Gabon in the analysis of census data, Kenyan Ministry of Health in training statistical clerks in MCH/FP, Nigeria National Population Bureau for their middle level training in the analysis of national demographic sample surveys and Zambia in the preparation of a training workbook on demographic analysis.

16. The Secretariat assisted in the organization of two national seminars on population and development in Congo and Ethiopia. It also organized, in co-operation with DTCD and the University of Addis Ababa, a middle level training workshop for government civil servants in Ethiopia.

17. The Secretariat undertook an evaluation of the analytical aspects of the 1980 round of Africa censuses, with a view to improving the execution, analysis and utility of the 1990 round of censuses.

18. Studies on fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends as well as family formation structure and fertility in Africa were undertaken by the Secretariat. These were:

(i) a study on the evaluation of the impact of the changing role of women and fertility, covering five countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. It concluded by emphasizing that an improvement in the social status of women and a change in their economic and social status were necessary for changes in fertility behaviour in African countries;

(ii) a study on fertility on the impact of changing patterns of family formation and structure on fertility trends in five north African countries: Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia. The study arrived at the conclusion that modification in family formation in these countries brought about by changes in nuptiality behaviour and decreasing mortality have, in some cases, resulted in a decrease of family size.

19. The Secretariat also completed a study on «Mortality levels, patterns, trends and differentials in Africa: a comparative analysis for selected countries in Southern Africa», covering Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The comparative analysis was based on the most recent two population censuses for each of the countries as follows: Botswana - 1971 and 1981; Lesotho - 1966 and 1976; Mozambique - 1970 and 1980; Swaziland - 1966 and 1976; Zimbabwe - 1969 and 1982. During the intercensal period, gradual decline in mortality levels were observed in Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe. This was reflected in an increase in life expectancy at birth which had reached 50 years or above. Median age at death was low in the five countries under review. In nearly all the countries about one-third of the deaths were due to infections, parasitic and respiratory diseases. The study suggests relevant actions to Governments.

20. The Secretariat undertook a study on a comparative analysis of trends in infant and childhood mortality and their implications for population growth in Africa, covering Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania and Senegal. The study used data from WFS. The objectives of the study were: to assess the impact of national programmes to reduce the levels of infant and childhood mortality; and to identify programme areas requiring greater national efforts in the sectors of health, nutrition, environment and social welfare. The results of analysis, going back to the 1960s, reflect a decline in infant and childhood mortality due to governments efforts to improve health conditions through provision of improved environmental health, nutrition and health education, MCH/FP facilities and services. There appears to have been a greater decline in mortality in Benin and Mauritania than in Ghana or Côte d'Ivoire. The decline in mortality in Senegal was observed to have been relatively slow in the past 15 years. The analysis also showed that infant and child mortality affects the level of fertility and this in turn has implications on population growth.

21. The Secretariat convened a review seminar on «Infant and Childhood Mortality and Socio-economic Factors in Africa» (17-21 March 1986) as a continuation of a programme on analysis of national survey data undertaken as part of the WFS. The review seminar was attended by participants from Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and representatives from the International Statistical Institute (ISI), UNFPA (Morocco), UN Population Division (New York), IFORD and RIPS. A report on the review seminar and the proceedings of the papers presented at that meeting have both been published.

22. The Secretariat collaborated with the UN Population Division (New York) in the preparation of: (a) the African regional comparative study on WFS data as part of the global comparative study published by the UN Population Division (New York) in the publication entitled: «Fertility Behaviour in the Context of Development: Evidence from the World Fertility Survey, 1987»; and (b) «The African Contribution to the Comparative Global Geographical Study on Early Age Mortality». The Secretariat prepared a paper on Lesotho while RIPS prepared a paper on Ghana and Kenya.

23. The Secretariat prepared the 1986 demographic and related socio-economic data sheets for ECA member States which, like the 1982 edition, presented summary demographic and related statistics; on such topics as population sizes and sex ratios from population censuses, age-sex distribution, age specific fertility and mortality rates, data on urbanization, educational attainment and economic projections, medium variant. Given the varying stages of development of statistical data collection systems in the various countries, the quantity and recency of the data presented were not uniform for countries.

24. To integrate population variables in socio-economic development planning, African countries require information on future population sizes. To this end, the Secretariat prepared the 1986 estimates and projections for ECA members, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Division in New York, within the framework of monitoring global population trends by the UN family. In the preparation of the estimates and projections for ECA member States, problems encountered included the inadequacy and inaccuracy of the base-year data, and difficulties in the development of assumption about likely trends in demographic components because of deficiency in understanding the relationships between population trends and socio-economic factors.

25. With reference to international migration, the Secretariat prepared a study on migration from the Maghreb countries to western Europe. This study drew attention to problems encountered by second generation emigrants and highlighted issues of protection of jobs and rights of migrant workers in the receiving countries, along with the re-integration and absorption of return migrants in sending countries. It was presented to the 1986 MULPOC meeting of plenipotentiaries.

26. Regarding the Population Information Network for Africa (POPIN-Africa) project, considerable efforts were made to expand the population information and clearing-house activities so as to bring about a greater awareness of population issues and

encourage their integration into socio-economic development planning by member States. Missions were undertaken to some countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zaire, Senegal and Ethiopia) to discuss and survey facilities and infrastructure for the implementation of national population information centres/networks to collect and disseminate population information. Assistance was provided for the preparation of project proposals for funding of national population information and documentation activities. It is expected that these national centres/networks will become operational during the next biennium. Since there is a general lack of trained manpower for the proposed activities, there will be the need to pursue a vigorous training programme comprising internships, study tours and short courses to upgrade the skills of national personnel in population information handling techniques.

27. In addition to the existing outputs (African Population Newsletter, POPINDEX-Africa, African Population Studies Series, etc.), the following new publications were prepared, namely, POPIN-Africa Country Bibliography Series (Kenya), No. 1 and No. 2 (The Sahel); Guidelines for the bibliographic description and analysis of population and family planning literature (preliminary draft); Handbook for the implementation of population information centres/networks in Africa (draft); Select list of publications of the Population Division, ECA. Through an expanded programme of documents exchange, several institutions and individuals were supplied with duplicate materials from the clearinghouse. During the celebration of the UNFPA Five Billion Day, a joint press release by the ECA and OAU secretariats was prepared. An exhibition of posters and panels highlighting the theme of the Five Billions was also mounted. Finally, the Second Session of the POPIN Advisory Committee was convened in Nairobi from 16 to 19 November 1987.

(c) Regional training and research

28. The objectives of this sub-programme are to assist member States in meeting their continued need for training of their nationals in demography and for the promotion of demographic research. Such training is provided mainly at the two regional demographic institutes: the Institut de Formation et de Recherche Démographiques (IFORD) and the Regional Institute for Population Studies (RIPS).

29. The two regional training and research institutes, IFORD and RIPS, continued to provide facilities for the training of nationals of the member States at the post-graduate level. This training, which is funded by UNFPA and the member States, provides high-level manpower in the areas of collection, analysis and integration of population data into socio-economic development planning. Nearly 150 fellowships were awarded for such training at RIPS (Ghana) and IFORD (Cameroon) during 1986 and 1987. Detailed activities of the institutes are discussed under separate agenda item. However, funding problems faced by IFORD and RIPS, and the decreasing trend in support by the member States is of great concern for the institutes.

30. The socio-economic and demographic unit of the Sahel Institute continued to receive the administrative support of the Secretariat. The unit is being transformed into a Centre for Studies and Research on Population for Development.

31. The Secretariat continued to provide, upon request, assistance to national and regional training institutions. These include: Addis Ababa University and IDEP.

32. The implementation of the 1986-1987 Work Programme was satisfactory in spite of the resource constraints faced by the Secretariat. It is worth noting that programme elements related to population distribution to the convening of an expert group meeting on integrated health/family planning programmes had to be terminated and that some papers and reports were made available in only one language.

33. Furthermore, it is to be recalled that following the indepth evaluation of the population programme carried out in 1985 by Headquarters, a review of implementation of the recommendations will be undertaken in 1988. On the other hand, a self-evaluation exercise is in progress. Sub-programme 2 of the ECA population programme, that is: demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development was selected. Final users of the produced outputs were invited to comment on the usefulness and impact of these outputs. In spite of the small number of replies received so far because of the periods of reference (1985-1986), the processing of these replies is still ongoing.

III. APPROVED PROGRAMME OF WORK 1988-1989

Sub-programme 1: Population policies and development planning

1.1 Technical co-operation with countries and territories

Operational activities: Two advisory service missions to national census offices, population commissions and other relevant government offices, on request, in the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies, and integration of population variables in development planning.

1.2 Assessment of population policies in socio-economic development planning in Africa

Output: Technical publication: the status and prospects of population policies in ECA member States for policy-makers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1989).

1.3 Evaluation of the demographic impact of population programmes in African countries

Output: Technical publication: the impact of maternal and child health and family planning (MCH/FP) programmes on fertility, infant and childhood mortality and maternal health for health planners, demographers, statisticians and policy-makers (fourth quarter, 1989).

1.4 Integration of population variables and policies in development plans

Outputs:

(i) Reports to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on: (a) population dynamics in ECA member States (first quarter, 1988); (b) population projections for ECA member States (first quarter, 1988); (c) population redistribution in ECA member States (first quarter, 1988); (d) population activities (1986-1987), examination of approved work programme (1988-1989) and consideration of draft work programme (1990-1991); and (e) the implementation of the Kilimanjaro Programme of Action on Population (first quarter, 1988);

(ii) Substantive servicing of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists (first quarter, 1988);

(iii) Technical publication: the relevant legislative instruments affecting the formulation and implementation of relevant population policies (fourth quarter, 1988).

Sub-programme 2: Demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development

2.1 Fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in African countries

Outputs:

(i) Report to the fifth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on fertility levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries (first quarter, 1988);

(ii) Technical publications: (a) proximate determinants of fertility in selected African countries for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1988); and (b) the effect on nuptiality variables on fertility in selected African countries for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1989).

2.2 Family formation, structure and fertility in selected African countries

Output: Technical publication: social, cultural factors, and legislation affecting family formation, and fertility in selected African countries, for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1988).

2.3 Mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends in selected African countries

Output: Technical publication: a comparative geographic analysis of mortality levels, patterns, differentials and trends and their life tables in middle Africa, for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (third quarter, 1988).

2.4 Interrelationships among infant and child mortality, socio-economic factors and fertility in selected African countries

Output: Technical publication: a comparative study on infant and childhood mortality and its relationship between fertility, cultural factors and socio-economic development in selected African countries for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1989).

2.5 Population projections, including evaluation, adjustment and analysis of demographic data for the African region

Outputs:

(i) Demographic handbook for Africa (fourth quarter, 1988);

(ii) Computer print-outs on population projections on member States (second quarter, 1989);

(iii) Technical publication: estimates and projections of African population trends for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (fourth quarter, 1989).

2.6 Trends in subregional variations in population distribution and urbanization in Africa and their effects on agricultural and industrial development

Output: Technical publication: the patterns, causes and consequences of urbanization in Africa for policy-makers and researchers in the population field (third quarter, 1989).

Sub-programme 3: Regional training and research

3.1 Technical support to the substantive and administrative activities of the regional institutions for population studies

Output: Report to the Fifth Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers on ECA regional population training institutes (first quarter, 1988) (XB).

Operational activities:

(i) Six advisory missions, on request, to the training and research activities at the Regional Institute for Population Studies at Accra and at the Institut de Formation et de Recherches Démographiques at Yaoundé and the Sahel Institute (XB);

(ii) Technical support for the meetings of the advisory boards of the institutes at Accra and Yaoundé and their governing councils (one mission, second quarter, 1988) (XB).

IV. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 1990-1991

34. This draft is based on the assumption that existing resources will continue to be made available for the implementation of the programme. The legislative ground will continue to be the KPA, the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and the UN PAAEPD.

35. It is proposed to include three sub-programmes in the programme:

Sub-programme 1: Population policies and development planning

1.1 Operational activities: Advisory services in population policies and development planning

1.2 Assessment of population policies in socio-economic development in Africa

1.3 MCH and Family Planning programmes and their relation to socio-economic development planning in Africa

1.4 Integration of population variables in development planning

1.5 Population distribution and redistribution policies in ECA member States

Sub-programme 2: Demographic analysis in the context of economic and social development

2.1 Operational activities: Advisory services on data analysis

2.2 Fertility and sub-fecondity in selected African countries and attempts being made by Governments to provide programmes to respond to the needs of sterile and sub-fecond couples

2.3 Fertility determinants and fertility impact on socio-economic development in Africa

2.4 Contraceptive prevalence and practice in African countries

2.5 Mortality, morbidity and socio-economic development in Africa

2.6 Determinants of infant and child mortality in Africa

2.7 Population estimates and projections

2.8 Socio-economic aspects of international migration in the southern and northern subregions

Operational activities: Population Information Network.

Sub-programme 3: Regional training and research

3.1 Technical support to the substantive and administrative activities of the regional institutes for population studies

Operational activities: Support to the meetings of the Governing Councils and Advisory Board of the Institutes in Accra and Yaoundé.